

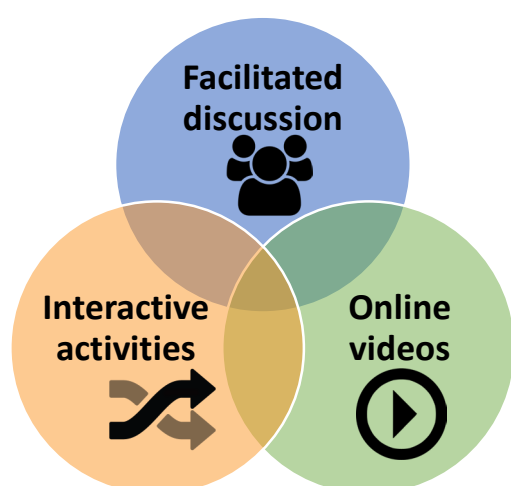
Building partnerships with the public by learning about Cochrane evidence

Cochrane's Strategy 2020 aims to make Cochrane the 'home of evidence'.

To develop stronger partnerships with the public, **Cochrane Australia** and the **Consumers and Communication Review Group** are working together to increase public understanding of health research and the role of evidence in informing health practice and policy.

What did we do?

We developed a model of delivering **free learning events and resources for the public and professionals** to help people learn what is meant by 'good evidence'. We used a range of learning activities, including:



We facilitated group discussions exploring the words 'data' and 'evidence', what is meant by 'good evidence' and research appraisal.



We led interactive activities about the meanings of the word 'research', how research is conducted, the terminology used and how the public can be involved at every stage of research, including systematic reviews.



We showed participants a video we developed about systematic reviews and invited them to help improve it.

Results

92 % of participants stated they found the event useful.

35 people attended, including **health professionals** and **members of the public**. A significant proportion of those attending were professionals with a remit for involving the public in health services. The event successfully met a diverse range of learning objectives, including **helping people 'understand what Cochrane does'**. Participants stated they intended to 'use Cochrane more', 'feel more informed about Cochrane' and that it **increased their knowledge of systematic reviews**.

22% of participants who attended responded to a follow up survey and all stated **they have been able to use or apply what they learned at the event** (of those who had an opportunity). The learning resources 'were useful' and some shared them with others. Some participants felt 'more time' than a half day was needed.

Conclusions and next steps

This work demonstrates the value and impact of free learning events. The learning from this work might also **inform future models of involvement for Cochrane** and the way in which Cochrane can support the public to understand and value the evidence from Cochrane reviews.

We will continue our partnership approach and aim to work with local health service providers and **support organisations to train their own facilitators** to use our resources and quality assurance framework. This will **create more free learning opportunities for the public** to learn more about Cochrane reviews and how the public can get involved in improving healthcare decisions by understanding and sharing evidence.

Learn more at cccr.org.cochrane.org or contact: Jack.Nunn@latrobe.edu.au or via Twitter [@jacknunn](https://twitter.com/jacknunn)

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